

Proverbs 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Analysis

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. The wise person's heart actively pursues wisdom. Lev navon yevaqesh da'at (לב תנון בקاش דעת, the heart of the discerning seeks knowledge). Baqash (בקש, seek, search for, request) shows active pursuit. By contrast, upney kesilim yir'eh ivvelet (ופני כסילים רעה אולת) but the face/mouth of fools feeds on folly). Fools consume foolishness like cattle grazing—passively, constantly, contentedly. The wise hunger for truth; fools are satisfied with error.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, knowledge meant skill in living according to God's wisdom. Wise people sought instruction from elders, studied Torah, and learned from experience. Fools passively absorbed cultural foolishness. The contrast continues—believers should crave spiritual milk and solid food (1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:12-14), not feeding on worldly folly.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What are you actively seeking—knowledge of God and His ways, or are you passively feeding on foolishness?
2. What does 'seeking knowledge' look like practically in terms of Bible study, reading, and learning from wise mentors?
3. How can you starve your appetite for foolishness and cultivate hunger for biblical wisdom?

Interlinear Text

ל ב	בְּ	בָּן	יְבָקֵשׁ	צְעַת	וְנִ
The heart	of him that hath understanding		seeketh	knowledge	but the mouth
H3820		H995	H1245	H1847	H6310
מִתְּאֵלָתָה	וּרְעֵה	בְּסִילִים			
of fools	feedeth	on foolishness			
H3684	H7462	H200			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 9:9 (Parallel theme): Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Isaiah 30:10 (Parallel theme): Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

Proverbs 18:15 (Parallel theme): The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Acts 17:11 (Parallel theme): These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2 Peter 3:18 (Parallel theme): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

